

He believed that they ought to have dictated terms which Mary could not have refused without the risk of civil war, and which would have saved the Reformation from the reaction which he feared. The situation was certainly far from satisfactory from the Protestant point of view. The Reformation had been established by the Parliament of 1560, but it had not been ratified by the queen, and the Parliament of 1563 had not dared to speak another word on the subject. As far as the queen and the government were concerned, and in spite of general assurances, it might still seem a moot point whether Scotland was Protestant or Catholic. No wonder that Knox inveighed against this invertebrate state of things, and the tactics of the men who were responsible for it. He now quarrelled with them in his fiercest fashion as traitors to the cause in which they had worked so effectively together. "The mater," he tells us, "fell so hote betwixt the Erie of Moray and some otheris of the Courte and John Knox, that familiarlie after that tyme thei spack nott together more than a year and a half, for the said Johne by his letter gave a discharge to the same Erie of all further intromission or cayr with his affaires."

With the lords he remonstrated in fiery tones from the pulpit, telling them angrily that deference to the queen or political calculation as to her marriage was no excuse for not hurrying on the organisation of the Kirk. "The Queue, say ye, will not agree with us. Ask ye of hir that which by Goddis word ye may justlie requyre, and yf she will not agree with you in God, ye are not bound to agree with hir in the devill." This, with a fling at Mary's proposed marriage, brought him once more into close quarters with his sovereign. Mary was very angry, and burst into vehement reproaches, interrupted by fits of weeping. It was a trying situation, but even royal wrath and tears failed to extort a retraction or induce the slightest hesitation. "The Quene," he tells in one of the most dramatic passages of the "Historic," "in a vehement fume, began to cry out that never prince was handled as she was. 'I have,' said sche, *borne with you in all your rigorouse maner of speaking, bayth against myself and against my uncles; yea, I have sought your favouris by all possible meanes. I offerred unto you presence and audience